



**City of Santa Barbara  
Building & Safety Division  
Water Well Abandonment**

Community Development  
630 Garden Street  
805-564-5485

If a water well is taken out of service and not intended to be used in the future, it is necessary to properly destroy that well under permit and inspection by the City of Santa Barbara Building & Safety Division..

The well must be destroyed by a Licensed Contractor with a Well Driller's License (C-57) who follows the procedures outlined in the State Guidelines for this process, including:

1. Removal of the pump, electrical wiring, and any piping.
2. Excavation around the casing to a depth of 6 feet with the well casing cut off to the bottom of the excavation.
3. Fill the lower portion of the well with inert, clean material such as sand or gravel.
4. Filling the top 20 feet of the well casing with concrete/cement materials as approved by the Building & Safety Division.
5. Backfilling the excavation with native soil.

If the well is to be used in the future for an observation well, injection well or monitoring well, it is necessary to obtain a permit for inactivation of the water well and meet the following criteria:

1. The owner shall submit a "letter of intent" to the Water Supply Planner stating what purpose is intended for the well in the future.
2. The well shall have no defects that would allow degradation of water quality in the water-bearing formation penetrated.
3. The well is covered such that the cover is watertight and cannot be removed except with the aid of tools.
4. The well is protected, marked, and the area kept clear of brush and debris.

Please contact the City of Santa Barbara Building & Safety Division for permit information or additional data on these requirements.

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